THE
HEROINE
ADDICT
#11

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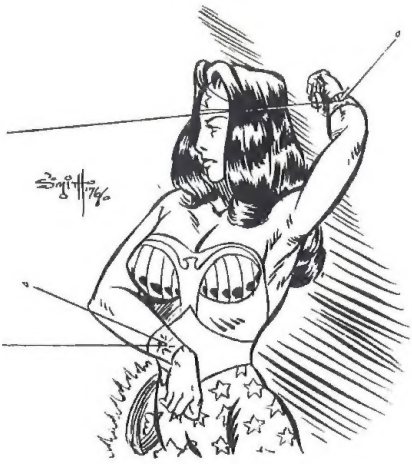

CONTRIBUTIONS AND LOC'S

Letters of comment from fans and sample materials from potential new contributors are always welcome. We cannot return any material however, **unless** it is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope of sufficient size. Most published material is done on assignment by regular staff members. All loc's and contributions should be addressed to our editor:

Ted Delorme
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Charleston, SC 29412

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ADVERTISEMENT

CAN THIS BE YOU?
IT COULD, WITH OUR HELP! TRY THIS TEST AND SEE IF YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES!
THE CHAPEL HILL NEWSPAPER
HEROINE RECEIVES NATIONAL HONORS
photo by Taylor
Woman arrested for not answering mail

Yes, now YOU can embark on an exciting career as a comic book heroine! It's so easy to do. Just send us a non-returnable deposit of $1000 and enclose your answers to the test below! You, too, can be a super-star!!

COMIC HEROINE TEST

1. What kind of powers do you have? Remember, it is important to have passive ones so as to leave the pages and pages of action scenes to the men. Do you have:
   A- mental powers B- mystic powers
   C- powers that operate from a distance (ie, hex powers, illusion powers, sonic screeches)
   D- no powers -- best of all!

2. It helps to have connections with established male super heroes so you can "bask in their glory", so to speak, instead of earning your reputation. Are you related in some way to one?
   A- girlfriend or fiancee
   B- wife C- sister or cousin
   D- a group's leader's wife's kid brother's former heart-throb's husband's sister
   E- other (see our special ad for Starhawk)

3. Are you a Celestial Madonna?

4. Super heroines must have eye-catching costumes. Many can be made from materials found around the house. Do you have:
   A- low-cut Danskins in your closet
   B- a couple of metal bowls in the kitchen
   C- a tight-fitting male super hero's costume in the attic (or family album) D- Saran Wrap

5. Physical attributes help a heroine's PR. Do you have:
   A- weird pigmentation B- fifteen feet of hair
   C- no hair D- fur
   E- a Power Girl figure*

6. The second time around is often the winning time for a heroine. Have you ever been:
   A- a villainess B- a Millie the Model surrogate
   C- a heroine of another species than the one you are now

clip answers and send in with coupon

ANSWERS

yes no

1 A B C D E
2 A B C D E
3 A B C D E
4 A B C D E
5 A B C D E
6 A B C D E

*You are accepted immediately!

ADVERTISEMENT

7. Just like the Thing's "clobberin' time", a heroine must have a battle cry. Can you say repeatedly:
   A- "I don't think I can keep this up much longer! The strain -- oooh!"
   B- "Help me! I -- ahhh!"
   C- "Be careful, Johnny -- ohh!"

8. There are tricks to success in the super business. Can you:
   A- find a goddess to merge minds with
   B- travel between dimensions in a faulty transporter
   C- get yourself kidnapped a lot
   D- find a super group which needs a token female
   E- manage not to upstage your fellow group members

9. Being in a super group can be abusing to a heroine's ego. After being kidnapped and threatened by a villain for the first part of a story, can you sit around during the fight scenes in the last part, adding nothing to the battle because the writer has forgotten all about you?

10. Soap opera is a vital part of today's comics. Are you prepared to:
   A- marry a man who could crush you to dust accidentally
   B- have a new love interest with each adventure
   C- die for the sake of your true love's true love
   D- inhabit the body of an insane woman whose forgotten husband is possessing the brain of a villain in a hero's body
   E- try to understand Marvel's plotlines*

11. You must conform to the stereotyped female image. Do you:
   A- like to be left behind your male co-stars
   B- have an unbelievable amount of patience and compassion
   C- have a suicidal form of curiosity
   D- rely heavily on "female intuition"

12. Upon successfully graduating our course and becoming a well-known, well-loved heroine in her own series, are you ready to:
   A- be handled by writers who are totally uninterested in you
   B- be tossed from artist to artist, each worse than the one before
   C- be cancelled
   D- all of the above

ANSWERS

yes / no

7 A B C D E

8 A B C D E

9 A B C D E

10 A B C D E

11 A B C D E

12 A B C D E

clip answers and send in with coupon

----------clip out coupon and send in with test----------

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YES! I want to know if I have what it takes to be a super heroine! Rush me my test results right away! Enclosed is a non-returnable deposit of $1000.

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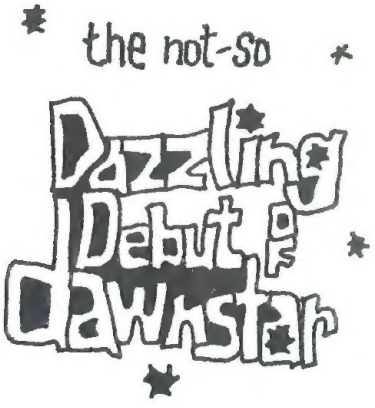
KARA ZÔR-EL (ALIAS LINDA DANVERS) FIRST APPEARED IN *ACTION COMICS #252* (MAY, 1959). UNTIL ISSUE #285, SHE WAS *SUPERMAN'S* SECRET WEAPON, BUT SHE DIDN'T HAVE A BOOK OF HER OWN UNTIL *ADVENTURE COMICS #381* (JUNE, 1969). SHE MAINTAINED CONTROL OF THAT COMIC UNTIL OCTOBER OF 1972. THE FIRST ISSUE OF HER OWN COMIC, DATED THE NEXT MONTH, RAN ONLY TEN ISSUES. *SUPERGIRL* NOW APPEARS IN EACH ISSUE OF *SUPERMAN FAMILY*.



". . . all your power will not help you -- not when you try to hunt the wind!"

–Dawnstar

("The Dazzling Debut of Dawnstar!" Superboy 226, April, 1977)

In the few short months while **The Heroine Addict** was away, quite a handful of new comics heroines made the scene. And while I maintain that there can never be too many of the lovely ladies, I must admit that some of those super-fems who *did* appear should not have.

The Legion of Super-Heroes holds a place near and dear in the hearts of nearly all heroine fans because it was the LSH which first cracked the unwritten law that a super-hero group should never have more than one female member. In fact, The Legion gave us quite a wide array of gifted gals. But these days, nearly every super-group has more than one heroine. The Defenders and X-Men each have three women in their ranks. The Teen Titans has four (if you, like me, still count the missing Lilith as a Titan). So while The Legion of Super-Heroes still holds the record, other groups are catching up fast. Besides, the LSH has been paring their roster of heroines while continuing to increase the hero count (exit Duo Damsel, enter Tyroc and Wildfire). Finally, the editor(s) seem to have taken stock of the situation; hence, the introduction of Dawnstar. But I'm not impressed.

While reading Superboy 226, I was reminded alternately of Marvel heroines Storm and Mantis. Dawnstar's poetic speech stands out conspiculously among the frequent slang employed by the other Legionnaires. In addition, the character is alarmingly inconsistent. Throughout the story, she remains intriguingly aloof, showing little emotion – yet on the final page when Wildfire offers her membership in the Legion, she bursts into tears!

Dawnstar's outfit cannot help but remind one of traditional American Indian garb, so perhaps I am wrongly influenced, but I expected her to behave in the same sort of tradition. She seems hardly the type you'd find "guiding hunters to snare helpless beasts." In fact, just the way she phrased that makes you wonder why she does it at all if she doesn't like the idea.

Her powers, though sketchingly defined, seem to be very impressive. Her ability to track things anywhere is an imaginative concept; one which might be of far better use to the Legion than the powers of her fellow Legionnairesses. Only time will tell.

It stands to reason that Dawnstar should have a lot to offer the group. So why am I not impressed? Perhaps because her very reserved personality is going to be buried underneath the more outgoing Legionnaires. After all, look at Dream Girl. Which isn't easy, since she appears only once every ten issues of so. Wy add Dawnstar to the ranks if the same thing is going to happen to her?

–Scott Gibson

CLUB NEWS

by Ted Delorme

Are we on? Is this it? Yeah, I can see all those people out there watching, so. . .

Hi there! Welcome to the new THA! I guess some of you must be wondering where Al Tanner, former mastermind behind all this, has gone. . . Well, it's a long story. Al decided to branch off into other areas, and **The Heroine Addict** and **The Adventuress** (THA and TA for short) just didn't fit in. But there were still enough staffers who saw THA and TA as a worthwhile endeavor, so we're still here.

Al sent out his final staff bulletin, asking for a volunteer or two who would take over the management of the two fanzines, and I replied that I had the time to edit, but couldn't afford to publish. A few week's later, towards the end of "Donald Duck's Birthday Party", I got a long distance phone call.

"Hi, Ted. This is Steve Johnson in California."

"Oh, hi, Steve Johnson in California!"

"How would you like to be the new editor of THA?"

"Uh. . ."

That's how fast it happened. But, then there were other delays, as Al's relocation in Georgia, his new job, etc., kept him form sending the materials for this issue to me. By the time it did arrive, I myself was in the process of joining an art studio, changing jobs, developing what little musical talent I have, double-etc.

But now we're back, and we're gonna make a 147% effort to stick to our quarterly schedule! And just look what we've got for you this time! A wraparound cover by Doug Ready, whose layouts have appearred in both Marvel and DC comics! A double-page centerspread featuring the unpublished cover of **Cat # 5**, by Gil Kane, Dan Adkins (I think), and I added the zip-a-tone! Plus the usual authoritative articles, illuminating illustrations, and clever cartoons by our outstanding staff of fans!

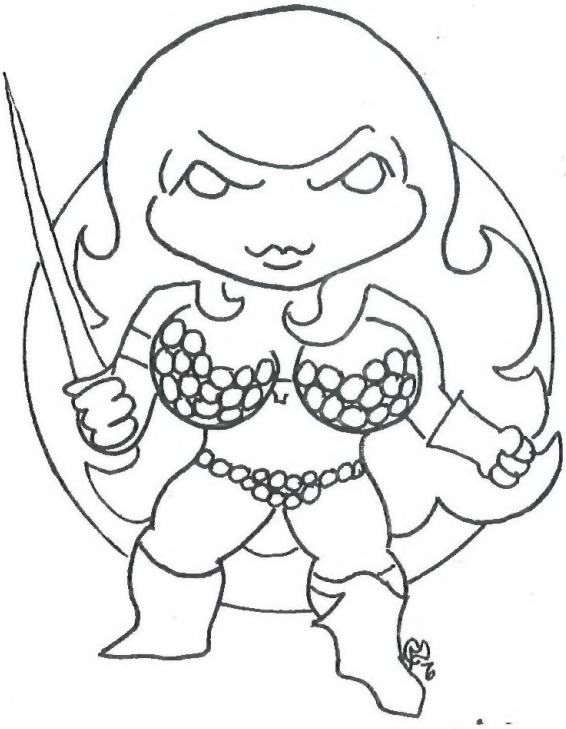
One article of special interest is my report on last year's Chefacon, where several of the staff had a chance to meet and discuss world politics and the state of the economy. Actually, we mostly rapped about Madelaine Kahn, **Dobie Gillis** re-runs, and each other. The only problem was that it was a closed affair, being open only to the staff. This year's Chefacon is different, with everyone invited and welcome to join us! Also, we'll be holding our Chefacon during the Atlanta Comics and Fantasy Fair, with their guests Neal Adams, Dick Giordano, Jim Steranko, and Jennette Kahn, so you get two cons in one!!! That's August 12-14, at the Atlanta Comics and Fantasy Fair. See ya there!

Another point I suppose I should make is that I'm always willing to talk to anyone with a question or problem. A few of the staff have called me lately, so I thought it would be appropriate to include my phone number here: 1-803-795-3168. Until I get a place of my own, though, the phone must be shared, but your chances of reaching me are good if you call after 10 pm. Feel free to call if an issue is late, to check on a package you sent me or one I should've sent you, or just to chat. It isn't toll free, but long distance calls after 10 pm are surprisingly inexpensive.

Next time, we'll have a surprise cover (no, I'm not gonna tell you what it is) by Brent Anderson, whose work will soon be appearing in Marvel and DC comics. We'll be changing our title, too, so Brent will be designing a new logo to match. Our centerspread is a beauty too; Red Sonja, who is probably the most popular heroine in comics! There are a few spots as yet unfilled, so

if you feel you have anything worth contributing, send it along, by all means!

Well, that's all from me this time out, so let's take a few minutes for a limerick break from Kathleen Glancy and Chris Padovano. . .



Fellows, don't proposition Red Sonja
If you do she is apt to leap on ya
The she'll cut, stab, and hack
Till you're done for, alack
If you try, don't say I didn't warn ya.

...and I'll pick you up at 8:00 for dinner.
Love,
Burt

I was glad when they killed off Steve Trevor
Very boring and dull was he ever
Wonder Woman's now free
To seek better than he
He was fickle, and not very clever.

MOON GIRL

"Moon Girl and the Prince" (origin) - *8 pgs.*

Moon Girl and the Prince #1 - *Fall 1947*

Golden Age Girls

by Steve Johnson

"Just once in every seven hundred years there appears on Earth a man and a woman, whose characteristics are so outstanding, so virile, so beyond our conception that they actually stagger our imaginations!

"First, there is Moon Girl - a woman of sensational strength, superhuman speed and endurance and surpassing loveliness. Her magic moonstone gives her the power of ten ordinary men and guards her against all harm.

"Then there is Prince Mengu one of the greatest athletes of all time - a true son of Hercules. No living man or woman can match the Prince's superlative strength - except Moon Girl. To her alone Prince Mengu must concede mastery (when of course, she uses the power of her magic moonstone).

"The last appearance of such an outstanding man and woman was described by Marco Polo in his adventures written seven hundred years ago. Now in the twentieth century - in 1947, in fact, such a man and woman appear again!"

"Just before the Second World War, the strange history of Moon Girl and the Prince had its origin, in the wild mountains of Samarkand..."

The Princess of the Moon had spent the afternoon breaking in a wild horse, but she had failed to notice the arrival of the handsome Prince Mengu who had observed her performance.

After bathing and changing clothes, Moon Girl is summoned before the Queen Mother, who tells her of Prince Mengu's desire to have the Princess' hand in marriage.

Quieting the Princess' objections, the Queen relates to her the strange tale of the first Princess of the Moon in the 13th century.

The story had been withheld from Moon Girl until she was of marriageable age, and now she learned how the first Princess had been exceedingly strong and brave, and surpassing in beauty. How the Princess' pride would not allow her to marry a man who could not prove to be her better in a tournament of strength. How it caused her to send away the man she loved. The winning of the magic moonstone. And the final reuniting with her true love.

Being a direct descendant of the first Princess of the Moon, any suitor who desired Moon Girl as his wife would first have to defeat her in a tournament of strength.

The tale told and the conditions set, the Queen presents the magic moonstone to the Princess with the warning that though the moonstone will multiply her strength and

Costume: Yellow, red, & blue

Hair: Black

make her invincible to harm, it might also bring much unhappiness.

In the ensuing contests of strength, Prince Mengu is soundly defeated by the Princess. He leaves Samarkand dejected, but Moon Girl quickly discovers that she does love him, and she begins her quest to find him.

After years of searching, she finally finds the Prince at a medium size city college in America where he has taken the position of athletic coach under the name of Lionel Manning.

Together again, they realize how much they have come to love America, and shedding their old identities, "they bravely face the future together in America, their new home!"

Moon Girl has somewhat unfairly been called a blatant swipe of Wonder Woman. The comparison is only natural as Moon Girl was only the third prominent super-powered heroine to appear in the Golden Age. And apparently some of the criticism is deserved due to swiping done in Moon Girl's later issues. However, Moon Girl is no more a poor imitation of Wonder Woman than Mary Marvel. In the four stories in this first issue, EC's sole superhero(ine) is presented as a unique, well thought out character, and her stories are all of an original, adventurous, and serious vein.

Outside her role as Clare Lune, history teacher at the Rawley Junior High, Moon Girl battled the Invaders from Venus, Satana - Queen of the Underworld, a vampire, a zombie, a werewolf, and other assorted villains in her 29 adventures. She was accompanied by Prince Mengu in many episodes, and she was joined by Star, a young female sidekick in a one-shot, origin appearance in #7.

The artwork for the most part is very satisfactory; most of it being rendered by Sheldon Moldoff.

In order to give his new character maximum exposure, M.C. Gaines also placed Moon Girl's origin story in Animal Fables #7 and Happy Houlihans #1 for a concurrent release with Moon Girl and the Prince #1. His reasoning for the choice of these two particular books is somewhat unclear.

Unfortunately EC completists have forced the price of this book out of the range of most heroine fans and collectors. Moon Girl's other 7 issues are also very highly priced, but based on the number of stories in each of these books, they are a better buy than the other books in which Moon Girl appeared.

****

"The Possessor of the Fabled Moonstone" appeared in:

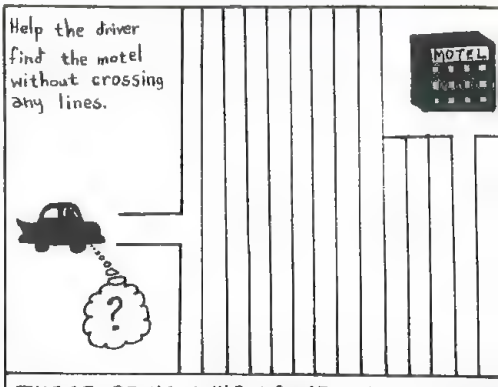
Animal Fables #7 (origin) Nov.-Dec. 1947
Gunfighter #5,6 Summer 1948 -
Happy Houlihans #1 (origin) Fall 1947
International Crime Patrol #6 Spring 1948
Moon Girl and the Prince #1 (origin) Fall 1947
c.f.; w/ Prince in 3 stories; solo in 1 story
Moon Girl #2-6 Winter 1948 - Mar.-Apr. 1949
c.f. 2-6; 2,3 - 4 stories in each; 4-6 - 3 stories in each
Moon Girl Fights Crime #7,8 May-June 1949 - Sum. 1949
c.f. 7,8; 7 - 3 stories; 8 - 2 stories; w/ Star in 7 (1 story)
Moon, A Girl, A Romance #9 Sep.-Oct. 1949
cameo appearance

****

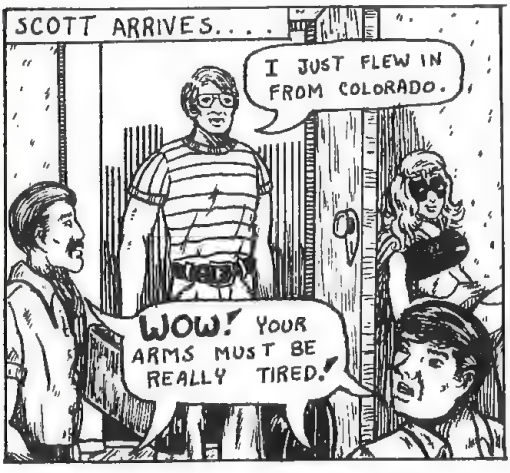
Steven R. Johnson, 585 Valley Forge Way, #4, San Jose, CA 95117

AND LO (ALSO BEHOLD), IT CAME TO PASS ON JUNE THE ELEVENTH, THE TWELFTH, AND THE THIRTEENTH, NINETEEN-HUNDRED-SEVENTY-SIX, A MEETING WAS CALLED, BANDING TOGETHER FIVE OF THE GREATEST MINDS IN THE GALAXY: *"ATOM AL" TANNER, "SILENT SCOTT" GIBSON, "JUNGLE JEFF" THOMPSON, "TALKATIVE TOM" O'REILLY,* and *"STRANGE TED" DELORME.* THE LOG OF THAT FATEFUL WEEKEND IS HERE... A FEW SHOTS FROM THE

CHEFACON
PICTURE BOOK



THOSE OF US WHO DROVE WERE SENT A MAP, HAND-DRAWN BY TOM, WHICH MADE FINDING THE MOTEL A *"SNAP"!*



THE MAJOR PROBLEM WAS TELLING WHO WAS WHO, SINCE ALL PREVIOUS COMMUNICATION HAD BEEN STRICTLY NON-VISUAL....

TOM'S FIANCÉ, *ALOMA,* HOSTESSED A *BARBECUE* SATURDAY, WHERE *AL* DEMONSTRATED THE CULINARY ART....

TED GETS SOME REACTION ON THE ORIGINAL ART FOR *RAVEN*....

the Lady with No Face... (and No Place!)

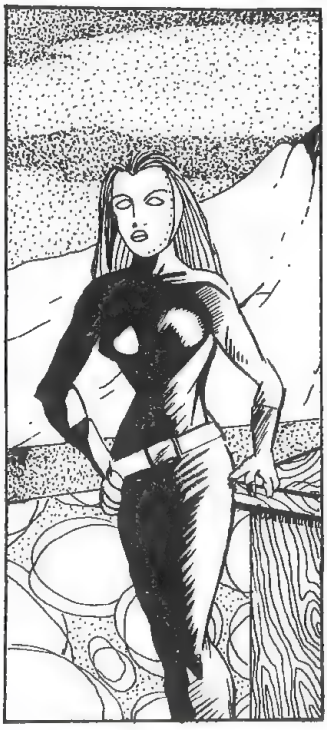
s. gibson

"...I was once just the daughter of wealthy Wall Street financier, Byron Frost...the girl who has everything...and I did! An indulgent father, the best schools...all the advantages...all the qualifications for being part of the international set, one of the so-called 'beautiful people...' including falling in love with the son of one of Society's wealthiest, most politically prominent families..."

Whitney Frost
IRON MAN #8, Dec., 1968

Whitney Frost first encountered Iron Man in TALES OF SUSPENSE #97, in her guise of 'Big M,' head of the criminal organization known as The Maggia. In the pages of IRON MAN #3, it was revealed that she was planning to infiltrate Stark Industries (the ammunitions complex owned by Tony Stark, the secret alter-ego of Iron Man). Whitney hoped to gain access to information which would aid The Maggia in stealing super-weapons developed by Stark. To do this, she pretended to fall in love with Jasper Sitwell, a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent in charge of security at the Stark Plant. She hoped to induce Jasper into revealing corporation secrets.

"...Then my father died...When I returned home, there was a visitor (who told me) 'You mourn for nothing! You are not Byron Frost's daughter!'



"From (a) slowly spinning tape came Byron Frost's confession ...How he was secretly employed by The Maggia to divert their illegal funds into Wall Street investments. How he'd been ordered to raise me like his own...How my true father was The Maggia leader...Count Nefaria!"

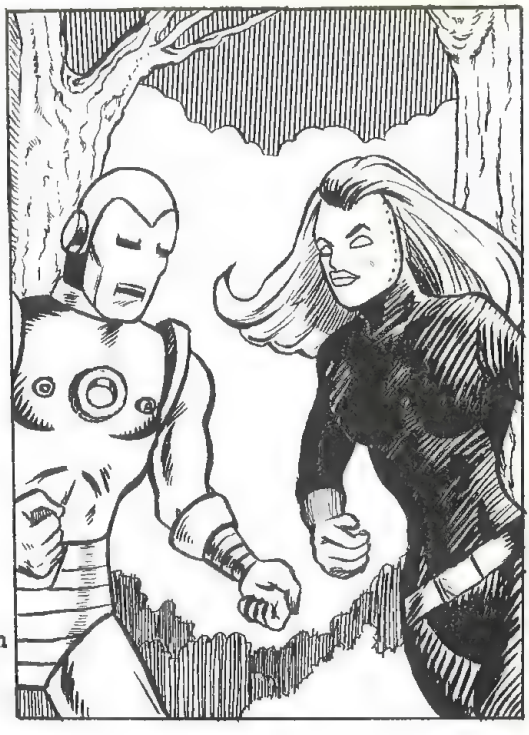
Whitney Frost
ibid.

If Iron Man hadn't been kept so busy battling foes like The Crusher, The Gladiator and The Unicorn, he might have paid more attention to the beautiful Ms. Frost's constant presence at the Stark Factories and her uncommon interest in the inner workings of the corporation. In IRON MAN #7, he did express some curiosity at the woman's unusual inquiries and behavior, but, again, the intervention of another crisis prevented him from taking action until too late.

"With Nefaria's mocking words ringing in my ears, I ran to the one person I felt I could turn to...my fiance, the man I loved...and blurted out everything!

"Suddenly, (he) recalled an important prior engagement it was urgent he keep...And so I waited ...first hours, then days ...and finally, months... Until, at last, I admitted there was nothing for me to wait for..."

Whitney Frost
ibid.



As days passed, Whitney was able to learn more and more about the Stark Plant from Jasper. Finally, she determined that it was time for The Maggia to stage an attack. Aided by The Gladiator, Whitney launched her plans in IRON MAN #7. Their invasion of Tony Stark's property continued into #8, where it almost proved successful.

While Ms. Frost half-heartedly led the attack, she hoped to save Jasper Sitwell from any harm, since, in the course of gaining information from the man, she had fallen in love with him. But the cat-and-mouse game was suddenly reversed--it seemed that Jasper had been aware of Whitney's plans from the start, and played along only to lure The Maggia and its beautiful leader into a trap. With Iron Man's help, S.H.I.E.L.D. captured all of the Maggia hoods and The Gladiator. But Jasper had fallen in love with Whitney in return, and he allowed her alone to escape.

It wasn't until 6 months later that the saga of Ms. Frost continued. At the opening of IRON MAN #17 (Sept., '69), an explosion rocked Stark Factories. As guards rushed to the site of the explosion, a feminine figure dressed in black with a strange, solid-gold mask covering her face slipped unnoticed from the industry grounds.

The adventure went on to reveal that the woman, known as Madame Masque, was working for a wealthy villain known as Midas. During the course of this tale, she removed her golden mask just once; readers did not get a glimpse of what lay behind it, but the man who did fainted dead away, screaming, "Your face! How horrible!"

At Midas' instructions, Madame Masque kidnapped Tony Stark. Midas was determined to become the world's richest man. His plans included the absorbing of Stark Industries as the first step in achieving his goal.

When, in the pages of #18 Tony risked his own life to save Madame Masque's, the female felon determined to switch loyalties. In IRON MAN #19, she aided Tony Stark in his escape from Midas' clutches. She removed her mask at long last, and Tony recognized her as the long-missing Whitney Frost, even though her face had been badly disfigured. Whitney explained to Stark that the helicopter in which she had escaped from his plant had crashed, and chemicals aboard the craft left her face terribly scarred. In a touching (if slightly mawkish) move, Tony drew her into his arms and kissed her, saying "There's a kind of beauty that can't be destroyed--because it's on the inside."

Both Madame Masque and Stark were able to escape from Midas' hideout just before it blew up. But once she was sure Tony was safe, Whitney quietly took

leave of the man, saying that he had problems enough of his own, without being saddled with a wanted woman, as well.

Her exit in this issue seemed to have ended any role she might have played in the future of Iron Man's life. But not so. In issue #24, when S.H.I.E.L.D. raided an international market for stolen goods, a solid-gold mask turned up among the merchandise. Whitney Frost's fingerprints were on the mask, as well as those of Tony Stark's. Jasper Sitwell confronted Tony with these facts, and Tony finally explained what had happened to Ms. Frost since her escape from The Stark Plant several months before.

Both Sitwell and Tony (as Iron Man) set out in search of Whitney once more. Through separate investigations, both men followed her trail to an island in The Aegean Sea.

In reality, Madame Masque was being held prisoner on yet another island nearby, by a crazed scientist. He had promised Whitney that he could restore her features to normal, so she had remained a docile patient, not suspecting that the man actually planned to transform her into a monster with super-strength to plunder and steal for him.

Fortunately, Iron Man arrived in the proverbial nick of time, just seconds before the mad scientist could give Madame Masque the fatal injection. Jasper Sitwell arrived too, and played an integral role in the saving of Ms. Frost's life.

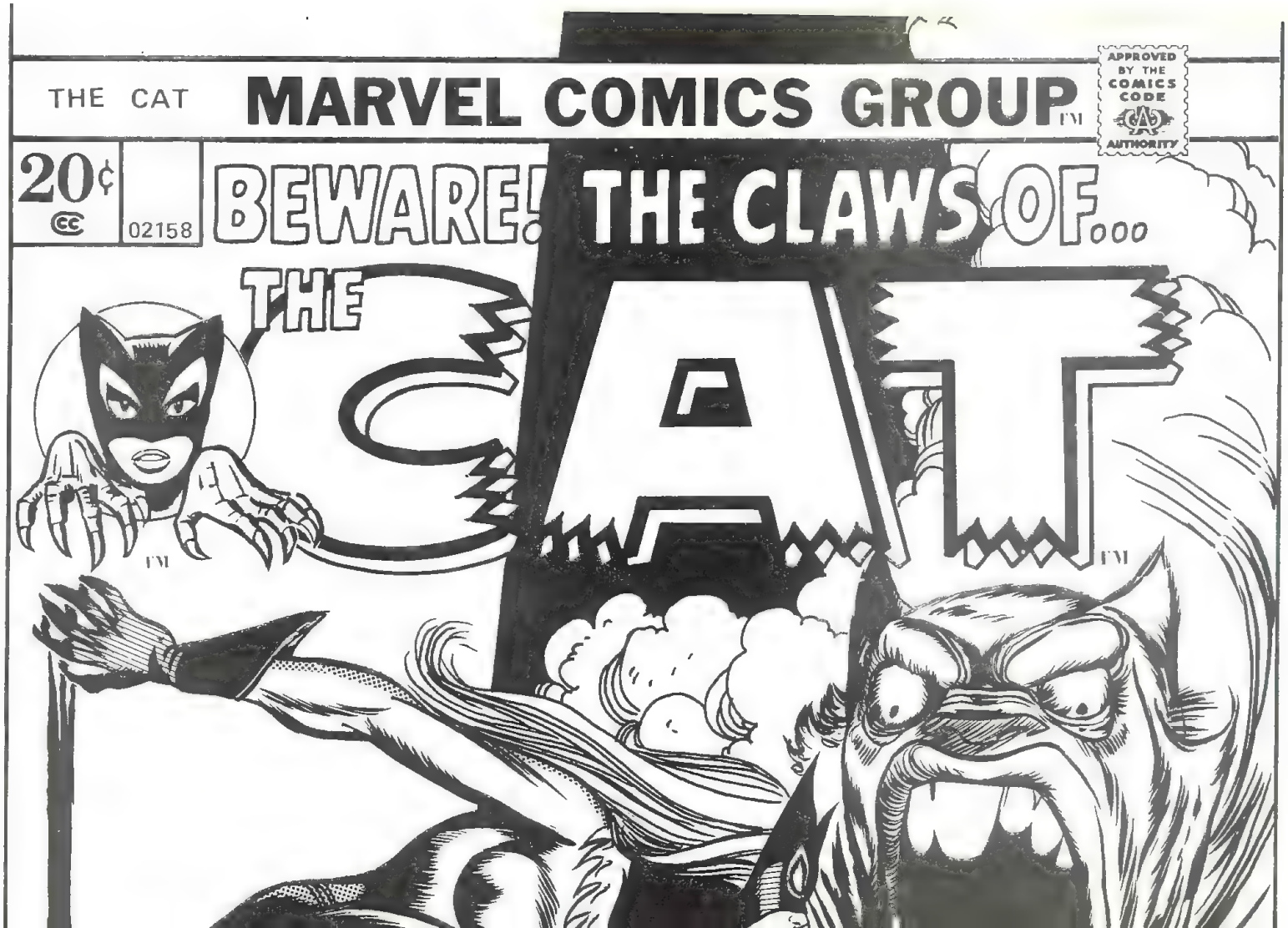
In their escape from the island, Jasper was left unconcious, which made it easy for Madame Masque and Iron Man to say a quick farewell. Even though Sitwell still loved her, he was determined to bring Whitney to justice for her past crimes. Iron Man, however, was more lenient, and let the woman go free. She was last seen walking down the beach in the closing panel of IRON MAN #24.

That was over six years ago. Marvel Comics, who seem to have the uncanny ability never to forget a hero or villain, but to keep each alive forever (either via guest-appearances, a solo-strip or membership in a super-group), has seemingly forgotten Whitney Frost entirely.

Just as Marvel was first in the field with heroes that were something less than Adonis-handsome (Thing, Hulk, etc.), so, too, were they the first to give us a heroine that did not look like Miss America. What a refreshing and original change is Madame Masque. An athletic and powerful super-heroine whose mask is not designed to conceal her identity (I daresay her disfigurements themselves keep her identity of Whitney Frost concealed), but to hide some nameless horrors. The concept of such a heroine would seem to invite endless plot possibilities.

Some months ago, the subject came up in the letter column of THE DEFENDERS that Ms. Frost would make a good candidate formembership. To date, nothing has come of the idea, but I cannot believe that Marvel will not eventually make use of the character once more. Ideally, she would be made a regular supporting player in IRON MAN (just as Black Widow was Daredevil's regular partner for an extended period of time), but that may be more than Madame Masque fans could hope for. Right now, just a single appearance <u>anywhere</u>, no matter how brief, would at least assure us that The Lady With No Face has not been forgotten.

Madame Masque made a total of four appearances in IRON MAN (that is excluding those appearances she made just as Whitney Frost, before she was actually either a costumed heroine or villainess) and was somewhat involved in the crossover of storyline from IRON MAN #18 to AVENGERS #68. She made two cover appearances, first on #18, and then on IRON MAN #24. All of her appearances were scripted by Archie Goodwin and she was illustrated by George Tuska and then by Johnny Craig, in IM #24.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The BATMAN VILLAINESSES: a look at great actresses in roles they'd like to forget

The list is an impressive one. It reads like the Academy Award nominations, probably because several of these ladies are, indeed, Oscar-holders. Others are noted stage and television performers. Some are sleek, svelte sex-kittens. Some are distinguished, accomplised thespians who rarely venture away from The Classics. But all tried to mow down Batman and Robin.

When the average fan recalls the ABC **Batman** series (some fans absolutely *refuse* to recall it!), he/she usually only thinks of one villainess — The Catwoman, as slitheringly portrayed by Julie Newmar. And while Ms. Newmar was no doubt *the definitive* female felon of the series, there were many, many others.

Zelda, The Great was the first. Even before Catwoman. And she was probably the best. The role was filled by Anne Baxter, who brought a good deal of sensitivity to the part. Zelda was a lady magician, blackmailed into crime, but basically a real nice lady. Before the story was over, she had reformed, and she helped Batman and Robin catch her blackmailer, a slimy ne'er-do-well who actually had the nerve to kidnap Aunt Harriet and suspend her over a vat of boiling oil! The story might not have been award material, but Ms. Baxter's performance lent the show a dignity it seldom deserved. Better she should have left well enough alone, but the lady was destined to return much later . . .

It was five weeks later that Catwoman put in her first appearance, in an adventure involving two golden cat statues which contained a map leading to pirate treasure. Titled "The Purr-fect Crime" and "Better Luck Next Time", these initial episodes gave no hint of the romance betwenn Batman and Catwoman that became so evident in later episodes.

These were the only two adventures aired during the first season which featured villainesses. Oh, there were actresses playing supporting roles to some of the male crooks (notably Jill St. John who played aide-de-camp to The Riddler in the show's first two episodes), but no other programs centering entirely on women.

The first lady crook to make an appearance the second season was Catwoman once more. It was in thses, her second pair of shows that viewers began to see Catwoman's affection for The Batman. It was here, also, that the writers began the beautiful gimmick of having Selina Kyle seemingly lose her life at the end of the adventure, giving seeming credence to the cat-has-nine-lives theory. Another amusing incident in this tale revealed that Catwoman was allergic to *dog*wood.

Three weeks later, the show took a page out of history and presented Shelley Winters as Ma Parker, "The Greatest Mother of Them All." Ms. Winters, with a deserved reputation as a top-notch actress, pulled out all the stops and played the part for all it was worth. Ironically, a short time after this, Shelley starred in the movie "**Bloody Mama**", playing – yes, Ma Barker!

It wasn't for another seven weeks that the next villainess appeared. She was Carolyn Jones, in the role of "Marsha, Queen of Diamonds." Like Catwoman, Marsha had romantic inclinations towards Batman. But she went about getting him to return those affections in drastic fashion, with a special "love potion." Ms. Jones turned in a good performance, but she was totally overshadowed by Estelle (*"Murder By Death"*) Winwood, who played Marsha's Aunt Hilda, a real live witch. Trouble was, Aunt

Hilda was a trifle old, and her spells didn't work nearly so well as they used to. Also, Auntie's heart wasn't really in her work – she wasn't particularly criminally-inclined.

Julie Newmar was back three weeks later, in "The Cat's Meow", a purr-fidious scheme in which she *stole* rock stars Chad and Jeremy's voices, and held them for ransome. Clearly one of the lighter Batman episodes.

But somebody, producers or viewers, apparently liked Catwoman well enough. Two weeks later, the character was teamed with The Sandman (Michael Rennie) in a ploy to steal the multi-million dollar fortune of J' Pauline Spaghetti (Spring Byington). Another gem of a story.

Brief mention must be made of the very first Batman three-parter, which aired two weeks later and featured a special team-up of the Joker and Penguin. The villains' scheme revolved around the signs of The Zodiac. Terry Moore put in a memorable performance as Venus, one of Joker's henchmen – or henchwoman, if you will. Venus was another of those beautiful ladies who fluctuated between crime and justice, falling in love with The Batman along the way. She eventurally reformed. While her role was strictly a supporting one, Terry played it well, and with more enthusiasm than many of the leading-lady crooks.

Catwoman was back again the very next week. Using a drug called Catafrenic, she gained control of both Batman and Robin, and utilized them in her cormes. This pair of episodes is my paricular favorite, primarlily due to the presence of Leslie Gore, who played Pussycat, Catwoman's answer to The Boy Wonder. Ms. Gore is a singer by trade, not an actress, but she did a commendable job – not a particularly difficult task, since it didn't take much to look good by comparison to the other actors involved. Besides – Leslie was able to sing two of her hit songs. The others had to stick to that dreadfully camp dialogue.

Penguin and Marsha, Queen of Diamons teamed up for another three-parter which followed the very next week. Sadly, The Bird Bandit totally dominated the story, giving Carolyn Jones room to do little more than just slither across stage now and then. Estelle Winwood was around again too, her portrayal of daffy Aunt Hilda helping to offset the raspy presence of the Penguin, whose appearances were as frequent as those of Catwoman.

But Juilie Newmar was apparently growing tired of the role. She made only one additional appearance, "Catwoman Goes To College", three weeks later. Her sultry performances had steamed the cameras for a total of twelve episodes (six stories), giving the show some of its more entertaining moments. No one could deny that she was *the* Batman villainess. Two other actresses would assume the role, but the authentic "Catwoman feeling" was never recaptured.

A new villainess, The Insidious Black Widow challenged the Dynamic Duo three weeks following. Talulah Bankhead played the part, larger than life. It's too bad she never repeated the role – most other villainesses could have taken a lesson or ten from Ms. Bankhead's Black Widow. Another of my favorites.

For the following, third season, the series dropped the Wednesday night installments, leaving Batman, Robin and the newly-introduced Batgirl only thirty minutes to chase crooks per week. The first villainess our trio got a crack at was the Siren, a sultry beauty with the uncanny ability to hypnotize men with her voice, just like the Sirens of early mythology. Statuesque Joan Collins was the melodic malevolent, teamed with the Riddler one week and then all alone the following one. By this time, the show's writing had deteriorated into pure schmuck; the writers weren't even trying to be funny. Unfortunately, they weren't. At least 'funny' would have been better than garbage. The Siren was an intriguing villainess, and could have been put to far better use.

One other actress deserves mention. Between Julie Newmar and Eartha Kitt, Lee Meriwether slipped into the Catwoman outfit, just long enough to play the role in the 20th Century Fox movie production "**Batman.**" It is especially difficult to envision the sedate, reserved Ms. Meriwether playing the hissing, spitting feline felon, but she did so with gusto. She filled the role with almost as well as Ms. Newmar (in fact, had Julie Newmar not preceeded her in the part, I doubt that anyone could have been disappointed by the Meriwether version.) And Lee certainly filled *the costume* just as eye-catchingly.

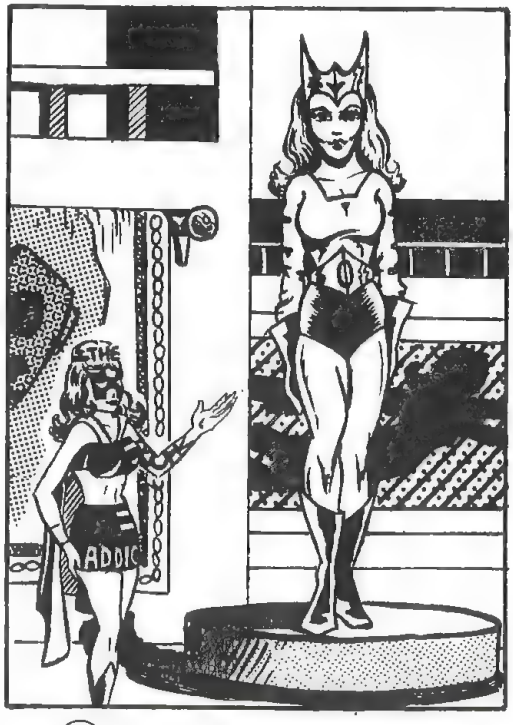
EPILOGUE: This article deliberately makes only limited mention of Batgirl, since another THA writer has for some time been preparing an article on Yvonne Craig. This feature was designed solely for a look at The Batman Villainesses, and to do any sort of justice to Yvonne would require several more pages!

– Scott Gibson

HEROINE GALLERY

The back feature of Charlton's Thunderbolt *comic featured a crime fighting group called the "Sentinels". Mentalia, the one heroine in the trio, possessed a tiara which gave her ESP powers, apparantly by ampliphing her own mental abilities. At first she could only read minds but later she gained telekinetic abilities, to become a regular Marvel Girl (!). During her career she fought Mindbender, the Titan, and others. Interestingly enough, X-Woman (Marvel Girl) inker Sam Grainger was the artist.*

– Scott Taylor



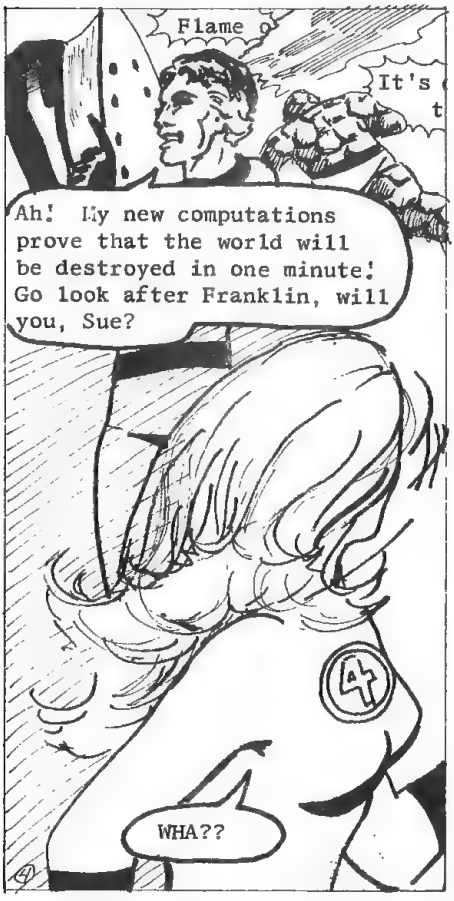
My calculations show only two seconds until that machine blows up the world!
It's clobberin' time!!
Flame on!
Ohh! Be careful! I'll go home and look after little Franklin!
One...zero...Hmm... I seem to be slightly incorrect...
TICK...TICK...
MADE IN LIMBO
Sheesh!
Excuse me...
Hunh? Whozzat??
I'm Carol Strickland, reporting for THE HEROINE ADDICT. Is the Invisible -uh- "Girl" with you?
INTERVIEW WITH A HEROINE
or
IS THAT HEROINE REALLY AS HE ? AS THEY MAKE OUT TO BE?
notes
GREAT NATIONIAN TEA CO.
Who? Oh, that weird old lady with the cat?
No, I think Invisible Girl's the one with the crazy red hair...
Or maybe the seven-footer...or the one with the stripes...?
E
ESS
HER
BE?
No, I mean Reed's wife, Johnny's sister, Franklin's mother -- Susan Storm Richards!
You know, the one who's always fainting and being grabbed up by monsters?
Oh, THAT one. I think she's back there somewhere.
Oh, Mrs. Richards!
What? What is it? I must get to Franklin...
Don't you want to be with the rest of the group when they're off saving the world?
Must you always stay with Franklin?

Well, I do feel guilty if I leave him with Alicia -- it seems like she spends all her time babysitting! It's all kind of strange... I mean, Alicia's a famous sculptor, yet we're turning her into a full-time baby-sitter!
Listen, can I level with you? This weak-kneed female bit is for the birds! Jees! All these "Be careful, Johnny!","Oh, Reed!", and "Gee, I don't think I can keep up my force field much longer!" bits are driving me bananas! The Marvel Machine is stifling me! No wonder I faint so much!
Sure!
Just once, maybe twice, they had me do something innovative, something that really utilized my power.
But they never did it again..
Gee!
It makes me so mad... Wait! Just watch!
Hey! Let's see you top this!
First I form a force field under my feet and...
Up, up, and away!
I raise the field -- with me on it!
Hey! Flame on.
low, Johnny flies on some sort of un-likely hot-air principles...
never really understood it. But my mode of transportation involves an explainable form of direct propulsion --
--and that means that I'm FASTER than the Torch!
NYAHH!
Get a horse, Johnny!

Now, as for the others... hm... Reed isn't hard to equal... I'll buy a pocket calculator and some Silly Putty.
But Ben...
I'll lift him over here by a force-platform.
H-A-A-A-A-L-P!!
Sheesh! Why can't these things be visible?!
Hmm...That's a point. Generally, only I can use my platforms and force field walkways; I KNOW where I've formed them, but others would have to feel their way around on them!
I'm forming a force field around my fist...
Now, hold still, Ben!
And as the momentum of my arm and my adrenalin level increases--
W-What're ya gonna do, Suzy?
So does the area and power of the field, so that...
Don't hurt yourself, Suzy!
3

SHEESH
HOW 'BOUT THAT?
BRAVO!
HMM GOODNESS
HEE-HEE
So thanks to my force fields, I'm invulnerable, can fly, have super-strength --

--and I haven't even touched on my invisibility power yet! I wonder what other things I can do?
Tell you what -- readers can write me with their ideas and I'll pass them on to you, okay?
Fine, thanks! Now I can be an equal member of the FF!


Flame o
It's t
Ah! My new computations prove that the world will be destroyed in one minute! Go look after Franklin, will you, Sue?
WHA??

HEADQUARTERS
SWEET HEADQUARTERS
Gee, I wonder if the Avengers need a new member?
Help Sue! Write me with suggestions on how she -or any other heroine- can use her powers better! Write to
Carol Strickland
5316 Blue Water Place
Fayetteville NC 28301

Steve---

This is my ad.

I'm selling 11 x 14 posters of the two designs shown here. Only $1.00 each, + 25¢ postage, or buy two posters and I'll pay postage. ~~Del~~ Dealers get 'em cheaper when they buy more; ask....

Thanks,

[illegible]

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"KID'S FIRST HUNT"

"ANGELS"

PROFILE:

STORM!

b.
rodi

Storm... the most powerful and most beautiful woman in comics. The most uniquely DIFFERENT heroine in years. What makes her so fabulous? Obviously... she was meant to be!

Storm's eerie sensuality and her earthiness come from the fact that she is the first heroine to combine accepted American standards of beauty with those of another culture (African). She is visually striking, in that respect...she is very tall, very exotic. Strikingly beautiful.

As for her power...it is overwhelming. She is possibly more powerful than Thor. Ororo controls the details of the storm. Thor just whips one up and lets it do it's thing. She is constantly finding new avenues for her powers, such as her ability to confine such tremendous force to a small area, or her mind-boggling ability to control cosmic winds. She hasn't found herself any limits yet. She is certainly more goddess than mutant.

But then, again, she is often more human than goddess. Storm is a study in logical contradiction. She encompasses both the power of a goddess and the charisma of an Earth-mother. The goddess in her puts her above the rest of humanity, while the Earth-mother in her achors her to the masses. She is, inexplicably, both...natural and supernatural.

Also, she is a free-spirit who practises restraint. Storm values physical freedom, and, to a certain extent, intellectual freedom, but restrains her emotions, always maintaining a calm, serene demeanor. Her aggravated claustrophobia is an example of this...when she began to suffer out of her need to be free, she always tried to keep that need under control.

She is also alternately authoritative and submissive. Witness her control over the most volatile of her comrades, the Wolverine. And yet, she sumbits to the tutelage of Cyclops with no qualms. Perhaps the difference lies in the fact that Wolverine is her fellow pupil...while Cyclops is, in essence, her teacher.

She is both naive and worldly; naive in that she knows very little about the world she lives in, wordly in that she is remarkably self-confident. She enters new situations with apprehension, but never self-doubt.

In her relationships with her fellow X-Men, she has shown a sort of empathy that moves her as close to nature as her power and her unearthly beauty move her toward the supernatural. She tolerates Wolverine and keeps him in check when it is necessary for her to do so. She is understanding toward Cyclops, and feels deeply for his problems. She is warm and compassionate with Colossus, who, coming from a Communist farm to the "real" world, has never encountered a woman like her before nad has the equivalent of a schoolboy crush. And, she is a companion, friend, and confidente to Jean Grey.

Storm is a role-player. She adapts to every situation by playing off another character, whether it involves being an amused, coquette-like dinner partner for a gallantly witty Nightcrawler, or being a comfort to Jean Grey as Jean prepares to face death in a radiation storm. But, throughout, her inner-consistency maintains a level of mysticism and remoteness that keeps us guessing who Storm really is, and whether she herself really even knows. After all, she spent much of her life in Kenya living a sort-of fantasy life in which she was a benevolent goddess to a tribe of farmers. The real world has destroyed the beauty and honesty of her fantasy, and Storm has had to face the ugly real world alone. She is a pupil of Charles Xavier, she is learning about her mutant abilities and their true worth. In time, no doubt she will come to an honest understanding of herself that will make her former fantasy life seem unlivable.

For women, Storm may become the symbol of liberation, as she is not seeking to equate herself with men, but is seeking to go as far as she can by realizing her womanhood. For men, Storm may become the feminine ideal, being a woman whose mystery is an integral part of her. With time, she may become the ultimate character, that being one
who is all things to all people,
but even if she doesn't, well,
Storm will STILL be Storm,
and that, to be sure, is
quite enough!

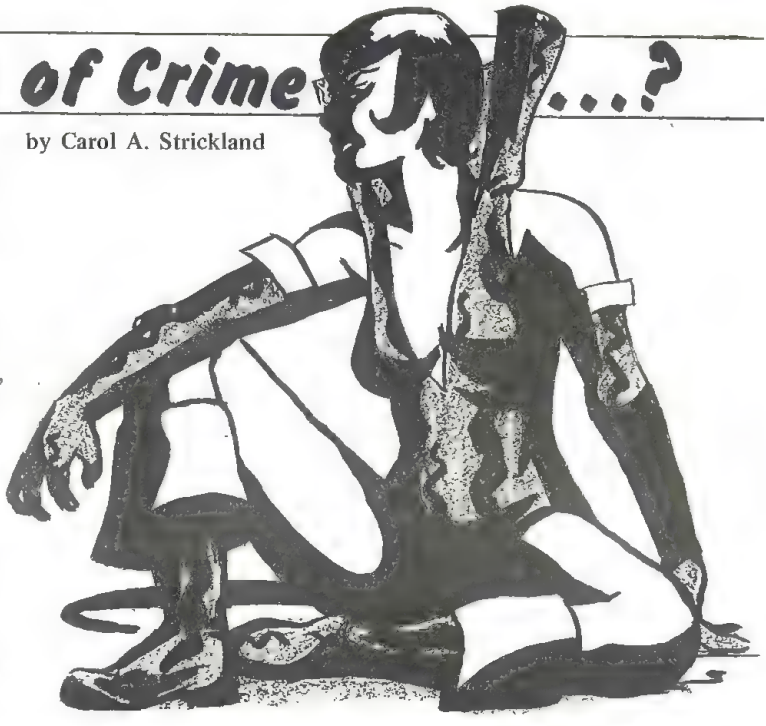
Given a chance, I could go on for pages about Storm...and guess what? I have been given that chance! My four-page analysis of Storm (discussing points made in this Profile) will appear in issue no. 2 of WOWEEKAZOWIE, along with articles and art by Dean Mullaney, Pete Iro, Jack Frost, Jo Duffy, Kim Thompson, and Willie Blyberg. I was going to print the analysis in this column, but it was too darn BIG. (This column is "Profile," not "Analysis.") I think you'll like it.

next issue: Profile on BATGIRL!

WOWEE-KAZOWIE #2 available soon for 75¢ from: Dean Mullaney, 703 Katan Ave, Staten Island, NY, 10312.

Queen of Crime...?

by Carol A. Strickland



"Pull in your claws . . . Don't force me to hit you! Can't you understand? You're beaten!"

"Defeated. . . Yes! But not humbled! No man can do that to me!"

(Batman 256)

Sigh. Catwoman has just been defeated by the Batman yet another time. Surely she'd start to question herself by now. Selina Kyle, alias the Catwoman, has been the foe of Batman almost since he started his career. But is the Feline Fury really tough enough to be called "The Queen of Crime?"

Of the women who have faced Batman, only three stand out: Catwoman, Talia, and Poison Ivy. Of late, Poison Ivy has only been seen with the Injustice Gang of the World, fighting the JLA. The addition into her arsenal of plant-growth ray gun has elevated her from mundane woman-who-loves-but-still-opposes-Batman into a minor-league super villain. Ivy's had only one really good adventure, when she battled the Thorn in Lois Lane 115-116. In that stroy she played a devious, hip-talking ally of the 100. All the promise she showed was never exploited in her later adventures.

Talia, of course, is one of the most perfect villains ever devised. She's coolly beautiful – enough so to snag the Batman's heart. She's the daughter of the man who is perhaps the most powerful, most evil person on Earth – although she wields power with the same skill as her father. And she's cruel enough to kill without hesitation.

How then does Catwoman tip Talia at villaining? Answer: She doesn't. One of Catwoman's trademarks, other than her cats, is that she never kills. (For all you comics purists who may wave a copy of Brave and the Bold 131 at me, let me point out that practically all of Bob Haney's super hero work for the past few years may be thrown out a window; Mr. Haney has an obvious disregard for any kind of continuity, however major it may be.) As a matter of fact, Catwoman doesn't do much of anything, especially now that she's back to her horrible old, slit-skirt costume.

Have you noticed? The more times an artist can show Catwoman lounging about, the higher up her slit goes and the less work she does. Lately she's been in the habit of lying around with her slit up to her neck, letting a band of goons do her work. The only time she does anything is when she feels like whipping the Batman!

This is not a healthy attitude.

Let's face it; as a villain, Catwoman is a flop. The best she can ever hope to be is a cat-burglar. This is not to say that she's a failure as a character, no indeed! Just look at her best adventure; her team-up with Diana Prince, Fafhrd, and the Gray Mouser in the magnificent Wonder Woman 201-202.

Dick Giordano's art did wonders for the cat lady, especially by ridding her quickly floppy red mask. But it was Samuel R. Delany's story that traced the Catwoman's personality from Lu Shan's underling to high-class theif to Diana's unwilling ally to heroine as she battled against Lu Shan and the sorceror Gawron. Still, a humorous side prevailed, an aspect closely linked to her identiry as a petty thief. What a heroine she'd make!

Batman 266, Catwoman mused about the thought of going straight as she wandered away from a train wreck: "I intended to serve my sentence. . . to square myself with the law! It's too late! I could return. . . Surrender!" Of course she decided not to, but. . .

Wouldn't it be great if Catwoman was sprung out of prison by some criminal – and then decided to reform? It would be old formula to be sure: Police *and* crooks after the hero, but with a new twist – Catwoman has this innocent little case of kleptomania, you see, and she keeps thinking about how nice it would be to keep just a little of the loot from the gang she just broke up . . . But heroes don't do things like that!

Catwoman's natural abilities would serve her well. For instance, have you noticed that as long as her nails are, they never break? How hard are they? What a help in scaling walls they would be!

Catwoman's most famous trait is her control over cats. In Lois Lane 70, she gives Lois (who thinks she's Catwoman) a bag of "Catnip Purrrfume" which allows Lois to control cats. Yet Catwoman doesn't use it. In Batman 266, Cat says: "You forget my special talent! I am one of the few people who have such utter rapport with felines that I can train them!" Yet in many adventures, Catwoman has no time to train the cats she uses.

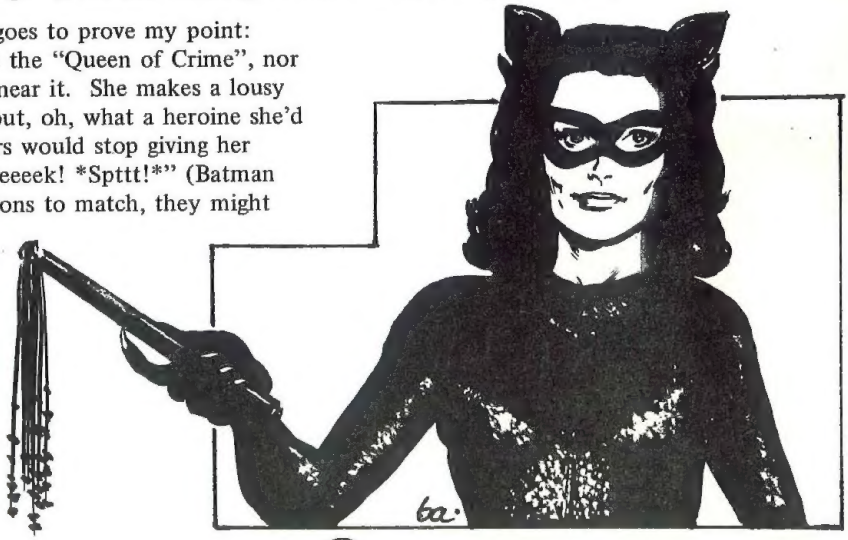
To an X-Men fan like me, this spells one thing: Mutant. Catwoman must be able to control the feline mind mentally, which has molded her own mind into a very cat-like one. Thus her regal attitude and cunning, her Julie Newmar-like grace. . . maybe even her astonishing agility comes directly from her communication with cats.

This mental control might also allow her to see through a cat's eyes. How else can she have them do such precise work when she is far from them? This monitoring system would be invaluable as an information-gathering device.

Catwoman is a mistress of hypnotism. She is skilled at using her Catarang and cat-o'-nine-tails (both weapons best forgotten). And in Batman 210 she gives a dazzling acrobatic display that enables her to be victorious in a fight with 9:1 odds.

Yet whenever she faces Batman, she shows none of the above – except the whip. Oh, how she loves that whip! (I bet the writers get a kick out of having her use it.)

Which just goes to prove my point: Catwoman is not the "Queen of Crime", nor is she anywhere near it. She makes a lousy inept villainess, but, oh, what a heroine she'd be! If her writers would stop giving her dialogue like, "Eeeeek! *Spttt!*" (Batman 210) with situations to match, they might realize it, too.



operation: deluge

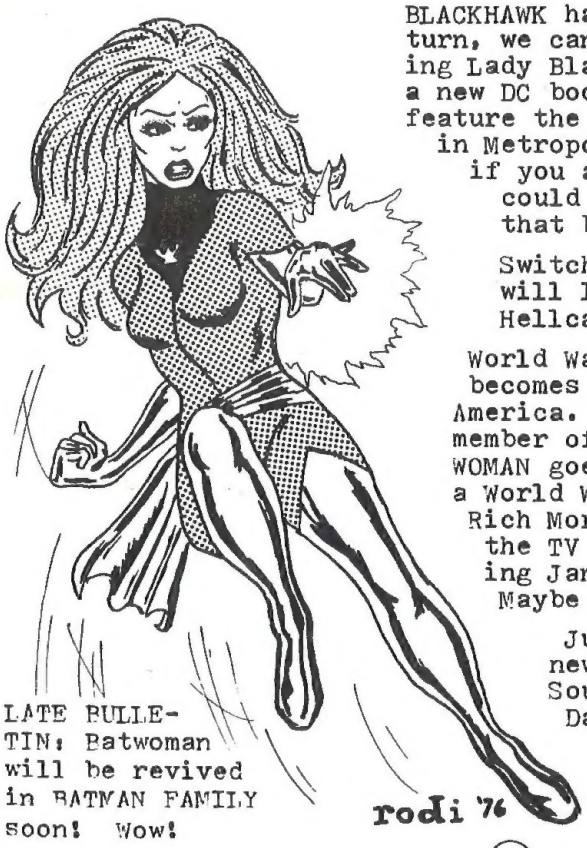
BOB RODI

First, a thank-you to all addicts for their enthusiasm for this column. I've planned to revise the format several times, but this current format seems most popular, so O;D stays as is. However...I hope I've inspired you to take pen in hand at least once (none of you ever say in your letters).

Onward...

Red Sonja's strip will be dropped from MARVEL FEATURE and moved into a new magazine, entitled...RED SONJA! The numbering will begin with #1. Obviously, Red Sonja is a well-deserved success. She has lovely scripts, lovelier art...and, unlike Conan, her destiny hasn't already been established, making it a joy to travel with her through the pages of the book. If you're not into Sonja now, then GET into her, and help make her the first real heroine success in Marvel history (if she isn't already).

Anyone want to nominate Chris Claremont as the heroine scripter of the century? Aside from his three beautiful X-women (Storm, Pheonix, and Polaris), he's given us the bionic Misty Knight and the savage Colleen Wing in IRON FIST. All are among the best-written-and-drawn heroines today. What could be better? Only...a crossover! Chris plans to have Misty Knight and Jean (Pheonix) Grey share a hospital room. Some guy, Claremont. Some heroines, those.



BLACKHAWK has been cancelled, so, in turn, we can cancel any hopes of seeing Lady Blackhawk return. However, a new DC book, BLACK LIGHTNING, will feature the new super-hero's battles in Metropolis against the 100. And if you all LoC it, I'm sure we could get the Thorn revived in that book.

Switcheroo Dept: Red Guardain will leave the Defenders, while Hellcat joins.

World War II news: LIBERTY LEGION becomes a new book, starring Miss America. Spitfire becomes the lady member of the Invaders. And WONDER WOMAN goes monthly, and shifts to a World War II setting (toldja so, Rich Morrissey!) to coincide with the TV show (which WILL be appearing January...don't ask WHERE.) Maybe our letters helped.

Just enough room left for my new address: Apt. 5-B, Campus South, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, 45469. Drop me a line while LoCing your favorite heroine(s). And a hearty "Hola" to y'all!

LATE BULLETIN: Batwoman will be revived in BATMAN FAMILY soon! Wow!

PUBLISHER'S PODIUM

By Steve Johnson

I hope that you have enjoyed this *last* issue of **The Heroine Addict**. . .

Sounds rather ominous doesn't it? But if you read Ted's Club News closely, you already know what is going on. We are changing our title with the next issue, so this of course is the last issue of **The Heroine Addict**.

I solicited new titles from the staff and other sources and came up with: The Heroine Spotlight, The Heroine Parade, The Adventure Heroines, and Gal-axy. And on the lighter side: Gaa-Gaa For Girls, Fighting Females, Battling Broads, and Daring Damsels. But it looks like the new title will be **The Heroines' Showcase**. (Our sister magazine, **The Adventuress**, will retain its present title.)

Of course all of this means that Chefac is do for a redesigning of her costume. And this partially explains the many appearances of Chefac in this issue as we try and use up our stock illos.

Plans had called for this issue of THA to be out by July 15th, so I could take copies to the San Diego Comic Con. Unfortunately, Ted got busy and wasn't able to get the materials to me in time. I only need a few days to get the typesetting, paste-up, and other preparations taken care of (but not in the few days when I'm getting ready to go to a con!), however the printer needs a good week.

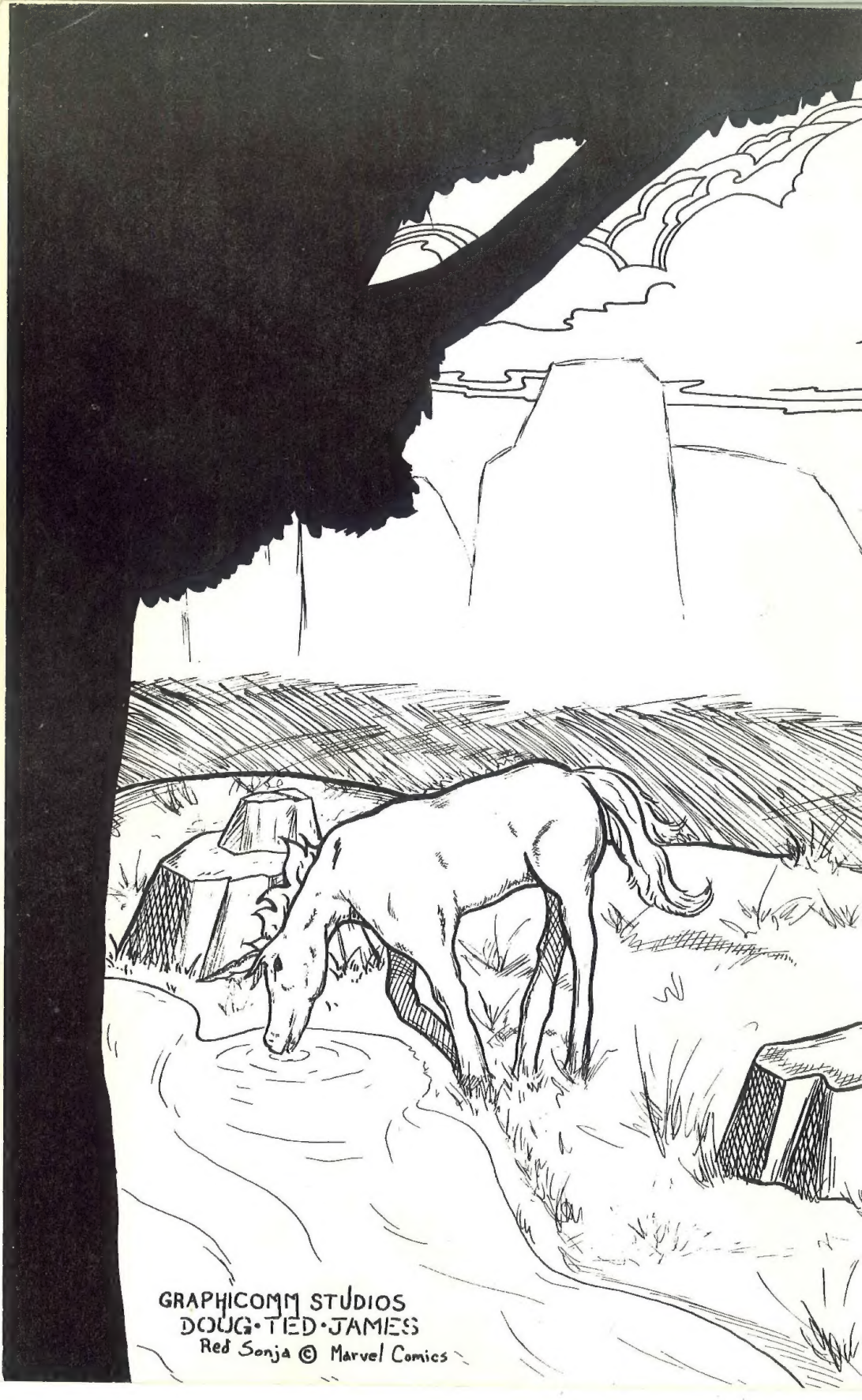
Now here I am on July 30th. I've spent yesterday and today getting this issue together. Everything is ready to go except this column and three illos by Brent. And tomorrow I leave for a 6 week Summer Session at U.C. Davis. (Scheduling is just a little tight around here.) Then Monday I've talked Brent into taking this issue to the printer. (For those of you that didn't know, Brent Anderson is my new roommate.)

San Diego Comic Con - Forty three back issues of THA and TA were sold and about 200 CHFC flyers were picked up by interested fans. The cash raised from these sales plus the unselfish financial support by several gracious staff members is underwriting the cost of getting this issue out to you.

Which leads me into Club finances. The Club has bordered on the edge of insolvency since I took over as publisher, despite the injection of some of my personal funds. If you have been meaning to pick up some our back issues but haven't gotten around to it, this would be an excellent time and a great way to show your continued support of the CHFC. And please continue to support the Art Auction.

If you have a good memory, you will recall that a new feature called "Fan Focus" was supposed to appear in this issue. Actually it was more of a reincarnation of the old "CHFC Awards" page than a new feature, and I was supposed to handle it.

The first installment of "Fan Focus" was written, and then this labor of love was submitted to Al Tanner where it was shelved when he stopped publication. Unfortunately some of the ideas and activities planned are no longer viable. And in my present position of publisher I don't have time to coordinate these Club activities. If someone is interested in taking on the position of Club Director, I'd be glad to discuss the matter with you and perhaps get things rolling again. Drop me a note at my address on page 2.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